

Message Text

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21

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - JAN 29

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS HIGHLIGHTS--

-- U.S. COVERAGE IS MODERATE IN VOLUME, BUT ONE ITEM ASSOCIATES THE PRESIDENT WITH AN ANTI-SOVIET POSITION ON ANGOLA;

-- ON THE MIDDLEEAST, THE PRESS REPORTS NEGATIVE ARAB REACTION TO THE U.S. VETO;

--ANGOLA COVERAGE MAINLY CONCERNS THE U.S. HOUSE VOTE;

-- THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER LEFT; THE SHORT COMMUNIQUE LACKED SUBSTANCE;

-- SOME PAPERS BRIEFLY REPORT MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN CLASH IN SAHARA;

-- A LONG ITEM ON CYPRUS RECAPS THE POSITION OF THE PRINCIPALS, DISPARAGES WESTERN ATTEMPTS TO FOSTER A SETTLEMENT AND REITERATES SOVIET SUPPORT FOR A UN CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS.

2. U.S. THE MAIN U.S.-RELATED ITEM
IS A TASS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON (IN PRAVDA) ON
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE AGAINST FURTHER AID
TO ANTI-MPLA FACTIONS IN ANGOLA. TASS REPORTS THAT THE
VOTE CARRIED DESPITE "STRONG PRESSURE" FROM THE WHITE
HOUSE. PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO THE SPEAKER, SAYS
TASS, PERSISTED IN DISTORTING THE SITUATION IN
ANGOLA AND THE POLICY OF THE USSR, CUBA AND OTHERS.
THE LETTER REPEATED THE THESIS ABOUT THE "SOVIET THREAT,"
BUT WAS SILENT ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION, SAYS
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TASS. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS ON "PENTAGON LOBBYISTS" WHO ARGUE FOR A BIG ARMS BUDGET. PRAVDA REPORTS CPUSA PRAISE FOR PAUL ROBESON, WHILE IZVESTIYA REPORTS PATTI HEARST, "DAUGHTER OF A MAGNATE," GOING TO COURT. PRAVDA REPORTS THE RESUMPTION OF THE SALT TALKS IN GENEVA, INCLUDING THE ARRIVAL STATEMENT BY CHIEF SOVIET NEGOTIATOR SEMYENOV, ON MOSCOW'S INTEREST IN REACHING AGREEMENT AFTER THE "CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS" WHICH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO HAD

WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.

3. MIDDLE EAST. CENTRAL PRESS ALSO REPLAYS EXCERPTS FROM SELECTED COMMENTARIES--ALONG PREDICTABLE LINES-- IN THE ARAB WORLD CRITICAL OF THE U.S. VETO AT THE UNSC DEBATE, PRAVDA CARRIES A BRIEF TASS REPORT THAT ISRAEL CONTINUES TO CONCENTRATE ITS FORCES ALONG THE BORDER WITH LEBANON. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS THE FACT OF RABIN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND CLAIMS THE PROJECTED TOTAL U.S. AID PACKAGE WILL AMOUNT TO \$2.25 BILLION.

4. ANGOLA. APART FROM THE ITEM ON THE U.S. HOUSE VOTE (PARA 2), ANGOLA RECEIVES VERY LIGHT COVERAGE, INCLUDING A PHOTO IN PRAVDA REPORTEDLY SHOWING A MASS MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THE MPLA IN A VILLAGE NEAR LUANDA.

5. POLAND. PRAVDA REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER OL'SHOVSKIY LEFT MOSCOW FOR HOME ON JANUARY 28. THE SHORT COMMUNIQUE WAS DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE, STRESSING COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP AND ENDORSING DETENTE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE. THE TALKS WERE REPORTEDLY HELD IN A "FRATERNAL, WARM" ATMOSPHERE.

6. SPANISH SAHARA. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CARRY REPORTS ON ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN CLASH IN THE SAHARA. (THE COVERAGE PRESENTS ONLY THE ALGERIAN VERSION OF THE INCIDENT, THUS REFLECTING MOSCOW'S TILT TOWARD ALGIERS.) SR CARRIES A VERY BRIEF TASS ITEM THAT A POLISARIO FRONT STATEMENT CLAIMED THE SITUATION AROUND THE TOWN OF AMGALI (PHONETIC) WE BECOMING TENSE BECAUSE MOROCCAN TROOPS AND IMPINGED ON A "FREE ZONE" CONTROLLED BY POLISARIO.

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7. CYPRUS. IZVESTIYA DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO A DISCUSSION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BY POLITICAL COMMENTATOR A. BOVIN. THERE IS NOTHING STRIKINGLY NEW IN THE ARTICLE AS BOVIN CLAIMS THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM ACHIEVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO BOVIN, A PROPER SOLUTION WOULD GUARANTEE THE SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS, WOULD PROVIDE FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ISLAND OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES, AND WOULD GIVE ALL CYPRIOTS -- GREEK AND TURK -- THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN FATE.

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